

Though we developed this bill in a highly collaborative and deliberative manner, I do not want to suggest that it is a "perfect" solution. Thus, I remain open to suggestions for amending the language to improve its efficacy or rectify any unintended consequences.

As I have said previously, "The bottom line is this: there should be no question that the U.S. patent system produces high quality patents. Since questions have been raised about whether this is the case, the responsibility of Congress is to take a close look at the functioning of the patent system." High patent quality is essential to continued innovation. Litigation abuses, especially those which thrive on low quality patents, impede the promotion of the progress of science and the useful arts. Thus, we must act quickly during the 109th Congress to maintain the integrity of the patent system.

**HONORING GREENVILLE'S FIRST  
AFRICAN AMERICAN POLICE OFFICER,  
WILLIE CARSON**

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 5, 2006*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize an African American pioneer, Willie Carson, Greenville's first African-American police officer. I submit the following article by Bill Johnson of the Delta Democrat Times.

**GREENVILLE—ANOTHER DELTA PIONEER HAS  
PASSED**

Willie Carson, the first African-American police officer in Greenville, died Friday evening. He was 86 years old.

Carson forged the way for other black law enforcement officers to follow in the early 1950s, working as a beat officer on Nelson Street.

"Those were some really rough days back then," said his wife of 20 years, Delilah Carson. She recalled some of the many stories told by her husband of his early experiences in uniform from their Fairview Extended home.

"At that particular time, a lot of blacks were killing each other on Nelson. Back then, it was not so much with guns but knives and their fists," she said. "It was a real war zone out there at the time."

"C.A. Hollinsworth was the chief at that time. And he knew that changes were coming and a new day was ahead," she reflected.

"Winchester Davis was very instrumental in helping Willie get on the force. Willie played guitar for Davis' band, and they traveled a lot. He knew Willie had a family with children and needed a good job with benefits, and made a way for him."

Carson took his oath to uphold the law, and he made sure that everyone on his beat abided by the law.

He was smooth and quiet in manner but when necessary made a firm stand.

"A lot of people have come up to him over the years and thanked him for changing their lives," Carson said. "If need be, he could get down and dirty right along with them. And sometimes it was necessary."

While rumors abounded about the reasons Carson was given the Nelson Street beat, she was told by Willie that it was a matter of support.

"Hollinsworth knew that if anything went down on the Nelson Street beat, someone would speak up for Willie and give support

for him. But remember, this was the early '50s still, and not many whites were going to go against another white person's word if they were arrested by a colored officer. So it was the best choice for the times," Carson said.

Willie Carson was also really good friends with former police chief and mayor, William Burnley. They spent a lot of time together and even called each other brother.

"They had a very unique relationship," Delilah recalled.

Joe Tinsley, a long-time Nelson Street business owner, also recalled Carson's tenure on the beat. "He was a true pioneer in police work, being a black man back in those days," Tinsley said from his barber shop on the corner of Nelson and Edison. "And boy what a heck of a guitar player."

Tinsley recalled Carson as a hard-working man who always had several jobs along with playing his guitar for a variety of bands, including Ike Turner, Winchester Davis, Big Joe, and others.

"He had a rocky road those early years, with the name calling and all. But he broke through the ice and opened the door for all black law enforcement officers to follow," Tinsley said. "And as time went on, Carson was very much respected. They wouldn't raise any hell or cuss around Officer Carson. It was tough on him, but he was the right man for the job and he made it work."

Carson is remembered by his family as a good husband, father and provider who loved his family and children; a man who believed in being in line with the law.

He was the type of fellow who was known for a good joke and appreciated a better one. He was the go-to guy during the boycotts at Mississippi Valley State College in 1969, where he served as chief of campus police, telling his men, "We are here to protect these students and the faculty. And that's what I expect you to do."

There were no major injuries on his watch, even when meeting face to face and at odds with members of the Black Panthers organization.

Carson was also the first black housing inspector in Greenville, and served as the grand marshal of the 2003 Christmas Parade.

In later years, Carson served with the Washington County Sheriffs Department from 1989 until his retirement in 2000.

He was never a bitter man and was considered rather jolly and outgoing.

"He tried to find the best in even a bad situation," Delilah said, adding that he would often tell his children, "Sometimes you can't get around a problem, but you can always make good choices."

Officer Willie Carson's career and faithful service to the community is a testament to his character. Carson's first probably will not be noted in history books, but it is his service and men and women of similar character that has paved the way for other outstanding African Americans to outfit our public services. It is with great honor, I recognize Officer Willie Carson, a true pioneer.

**A TRIBUTE TO FLOR MARINA  
PRIETO**

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 5, 2006*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Flor Marina Prieto and I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing the accomplishments of this outstanding member of the community.

Flor Marina Prieto was born in Bogota, Colombia, into a typical middle class Colombian family. Ms. Prieto's father was Captain of the National Police and her mother worked, mainly at home, as an art decorator making very beautiful artificial and natural flower arrangements. Ms. Prieto's mother chose Flor Marina's name because of her love for flowers and her father's passion for the sea. Ms. Prieto's was comprised of school and home surrounded with plenty of love.

Ms. Prieto graduated as a secretary in Bogota, Colombia and soon after came to the United States. As a hobby, she attended ballet classes and had the opportunity to perform as an amateur ballerina. Soon after taking her marriage vows, Ms. Prieto's had her best treasure, her lovely daughter Jacqueline.

Ms. Prieto foresaw the importance and impact of computers in education. In order to learn about this and to earn some money so that she could pay for her college career, she worked as representative of a Colombian Computer Company in the United States. She traveled several times to Europe searching for specialized software to be sold in South America.

Later, she created her own small company M&B Computer Export because at the time it was a good business to sell computers and peripherals outside the United States. Several years later, she decided she was ready to start college to study Psychology. Ms. Prieto studied at St. John's University and graduated in May of 1996 with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology. Ms. Prieto was so enthralled with this field that she decided to continue her studies in graduate school. She studied at St. John's University as well for a graduate degree in Bilingual School Counseling. Ms. Prieto graduated in June of 2000 with a Master of Science in Education. In addition, upon graduation, she was awarded with honors, the Dean's Award for Academic Excellence.

Ms. Prieto is currently working as a Bilingual Counselor at Eastwood School, P.S. 95. She is very pleased and fulfilled with her role as a counselor. She is very happy to work with children. Ms. Prieto feels her job is very rewarding because she is able to witness how a child's life can change or improve with her help. It is very satisfying to know that one can make a difference in a child's life. Ms. Prieto's main objective was to graduate as a counselor and then use this knowledge to help educate special children. This dream is now a beautiful reality.

Mr. Speaker, I believe this body, in recognition of her life and efforts, should pay tribute to Ms. Flor Marina Prieto.

**RECOGNIZING MASTER SAM  
HYATT AS BOX TOPS FOR EDU-  
CATION KIDS' CAUCUS ESSAY FI-  
NALIST**

**HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 5, 2006*

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I proudly rise before you today to recognize a sixth grade boy in the Second Congressional District of Maryland, Master Sam Hyatt. He was named as a finalist in the Box Tops for Education Kids' Caucus Essay contest. Sam